FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

15 APRIL 1983

PLO Affairs

A PLO Executive Committee meeting scheduled for 14 April in Tunis has been postponed until after the arrival of committee members and other Palestinian officials, INA announced. Meanwhile, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat met with some of his advisers in Tunis to discuss recent Palestinian developments and later left Tunisia for a visit to Bulgaria, according to KUNA and Tunis radio.

In another development Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan left Tunis for a visit to Morocco to consult with King Hassan II on the possibility of resuming the Palestinian-Jordanian talks, KUNA noted citing an informed Palestinian source.

Lebanon

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens met with Major Sa'd Haddad and reiterated that Israel will not give up its demand that he remain in command in southern Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. According to a subsequent IDF radio report, Arens said there has been a "marked change" over the past few days in the Lebanese Government's attitude toward Haddad. Meanwhile, Haddad's status was not discussed during the 14 April tripartite negotiations in Khaldah, Jerusalem radio noted. The radio said the delegations discussed the wording of the draft agreement and the Israeli delegation spokesman said progress had been made.

In other developments 20 persons were killed or wounded during an attack on an Israeli bus near Tyre, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Earlier, more than 50 Israeli planes carried out intensive sorties and mock air raids over southern Lebanon described by the IDF spokesman as "routine activity," according to Jerusalem and Beirut radio reports.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iranian forces captured important strategic heights north of Faqih and shot down two Iraqi helicopters, an Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio claimed. According to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio, Iraqi aircraft carried out 158 successful combat missions on 14 April, dealing strong and "painful" blows to Iranian forces.

In another development an Iranian naval commander asserted that Iraq used Kuwaiti commercial shipping lanes to launch its recent attack against Iran's Ardashir oil wells, Tehran radio reported. Iranian experts repaired the damage to the oil wells but could not promise that there will be no future leakage, the radio added. According to a subsequent AFP report, Iranian Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi said three oil wells are on fire in the Nowruz oilfield and 2,000 barrels of oil have been pouring into the Gulf daily "following an Iraqi attack." Meanwhile, the Iranian prime minister's public Relations Office announced that Gulf states which are threatened by a shortage of drinking water can dispatch ships to southern Iranian ports and load as much water as needed at no expense, IRNA noted.

Egypt

A senior Egyptian military officer is expected to visit the Soviet Union soon, according to Jerusalem radio, which speculated that the visit may be a step toward the resumption of bilateral military ties. Monitored Egyptian media have not reported this development.

Afghanistan

Soviet-Afghan troops have killed some 200 civilians and guerrillas in a "punitive" campaign in Ghazni Province since the end of March, AFP reported citing Afghan resistance sources in Pakistan. Meanwhile, a BAKHTAR commentary broadcast by Kabul radio denied "imperialist propaganda" claims that several provinces are controlled by the resistance movement and affirmed that "revolutionary power" is enforced throughout the DRA.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 074 *15 April 1983*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Geneva Talks on Afghan Solution Continue *Karachi* ..... C 1
AFP Report ..... C 1
AFP: Punitive Raid Launched Against Guerrillas ..... C 1
Resistance Leader Views Infighting Among Groups ..... C 1
Council Announces Promotions to General ..... C 2
BAKHTAR Refutes 'Imperialist Propaganda' Claims ..... C 2

INDIA

Gandhi Writes to Leaders of Advanced Nations ..... E 1
Border Vigilance Tightened Against Immigrants ..... E 1
Gandhi Tells Soldiers of Danger at Borders ..... E 1
Congress-I Protestors Arrested in Tripura ..... E 1
Sikhs Swear In 'Do-or-Die Sacrifice Force' ..... E 1
Leader of Bombay Textile Strikers Arrested ..... E 2
Power Supply in Bihar State Restored ..... E 2
Northeastern States To Discuss Common Problems ..... E 2

PAKISTAN

Ziaul Haq Discusses Regional,National Issues *MENA* ..... F 1
Religious Violence Flares in Karachi 12 April *Delhi* ..... F 1

IRAN

Reportage on Recent Military Activities ..... I 1
Battle Successes Cited ..... I 1
Heights Liberated ..... I 1
Counterattack Repulsed 15 April ..... I 1
Communique No 1,284 ..... I 1
Warship Captain Discusses Sinking of Iraqi Gunboat ..... I 2
Naval Commander Comments on Iraqi Gunboat Attack ..... I 2
Further Report ..... I 2
IRNA Reports on Possible Greater Oil Danger ..... I 3
Ministry Offers Gulf States Drinking Water ..... I 3
Oil Minister Discusses Oil Slick, Kuwait Meeting ..... I 3
AFP Account ..... I 4
Esfahan Governor Meets With Soviet Consul General ..... I 4

Geneva Talks on Afghan Solution Continue

BK141608 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The indirect negotiations on major elements on a political solution to the Afghanistan problem continued in Geneva today. It is understood that the Pakistani and the Babrak Karmal regime delegations are having detailed discussions separately with the UN secretary general's personal representative, Cordovez, on major elements which include return of the Afghan refugees to their homeland, withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan, and a guarantee of noninterference.

UN sources said the discussions on these elements so far have not taken any concrete shape and it is too early to say anything in this regard. When asked during the luncheon whether any progress had been made in the talks, Cordovez said that on this issue the talks have been progressing since the very beginning but he did not elaborate.

AFP, quoting informed sources in Geneva, said progress in the current round of talks is borne out by the fact that Cordovez has decided to tour the region some time after the conclusion of the current talks to ascertain the views of the Afghan refugees about returning to their country.

AFP Report

NC141731 Paris AFP in English 1714 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Geneva, April 14 (AFP)—Afghan and Pakistani delegations carried on "indirect" talks here today on the overall Afghan problem, including that of Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

But since neither nation recognizes the other, there was no direct contact between the delegations. Instead, United Nations Assistant Secretary General Diego Cordovez served as a shuttle between them.

There was no official statement on the progress of the talks. But Mr Cordovez was said to be sufficiently optimistic to be envisioning a trip to Pakistani provinces receiving the Afghan refugees as soon as the talks here end.

They are scheduled to run through April 22.

AFP: Punitive Raid Launched Against Guerrillas

BK150203 Hong Kong AFP in English 0147 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 15 (AFP)—Soviet-Afghan troops killed some 200 Afghan civilians and mujahedeen guerrillas in a "punitive" campaign in Ghazni Province this month, but also suffered heavy losses, resistance sources said here Thursday.

Western diplomatic sources here also reported that mujahedeen units were attacking security forces and government buildings in Ghazni. Soviet occupation forces were said to have countered during the past two weeks by increasing their armored patrols.

According to resistance sources, a special Soviet unit comprising 200 military vehicles and six helicopters was sent to Ghazni, launching a sweep on March 31 against the villages of Marwez Qila, Walidad, Spinkarez and Naeem Qila in Qarabagh subdivision, southwest of historic Ghazni.

The attack ended on April 2 with 22 mujahedeen and some 180 civilians killed, the sources said.

Fighting was heaviest in Naeem Qila, where 14 military vehicles, including armored personnel carriers, were destroyed, the resistance sources said, adding that there had been "very heavy Soviet-Afghan casualties."

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's official BAKHTAR news agency, in a commentary broadcast by Kabul radio and monitored here, denied "imperialist propaganda" in Western media reporting that several Afghan provinces were under the control of the anti-Marxist resistance movement.

It said the Soviet-backed Kabul regime was becoming more and more popular and that "the counter-revolutionaries are on the run."

Resistance Leader Views Infighting Among Groups

NC141702 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Paris, Apr 14 (AFP)—Tension and clashes between different factions of Afghan resistance fighters are reaching a dangerous level, where they are of positive help to the Russians, the leader of one of these groups said here today.

Abdul Qayum of the United Front, who is currently touring Europe after attending last week's Socialist International conference in Portugal, said the Russians knew very well how to exploit the conflicts between the resistance groups, which stem more from social than political differences.

According to Mr Qayum, whose front is a grouping of nationalists which tends to dissociate itself from the fundamentalists, the clashes are not only between fundamentalists and lay groups but also within the fundamentalist movement itself. He cited the example of the "Hezbe-e Islami" and "Jami'at Islami", two of the main fundamentalist groupings, which have been at loggerheads.

He said that in some areas, notably in the west and south of Kabul, the Russians were benefitting from the fact that rebels were weakened from infighting.

The only way to strengthen resistance was to preserve a united front, he said, confirming that his own movement received no financial or military aid from abroad. Prominent groups like the Hezbe must give up trying to impose their will on others, he said.

He did concede that there were some examples of cooperation between rival factions. According to Western sources in Pakistan, three groups got together for a bloody raid on Soviet-Afghan forces north of Kabul on April 1.

He went on to say he considered the indirect negotiations at

Geneva between the Pakistani and Afghan Governments were null and void. The only valid negotiatiators to find a solution were the Russian and the "Afghan people", he said.

The situation was at stalemate because the Russians were incapable of quashing the resistance, whereas the resistance was incapable of getting the upper hand with the Soviet-Afghan forces, he said.

Council Announces Promotions to General

LD141853 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] The Secretariat of the Presidium of the DRA Revolutionary Council announced that the Presidium has issued a decree dated 14 April. Recognizing their outstanding services in defending the gains of the April Revolution, in consolidating the defense capability of the country and in enhancing the level of combat capability of the Armed Forces, and on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the April Revolution, the following have been promoted to the ranks of generals:

Major General 'Abdol Qader, DRA minister of defense, to lieutenant general;

Najibollah, head of the State Information Services, to major general;

Colonel Sayyed Mohammad Golabsoy, DRA minister of interior, to brigadier general;

The following officers of the DRA Army also have been promoted to the rank of brigadier general:

Colonel of the Artillery Enzar Gol; Colonel of the Artillery Mohammad Faruq; Colonel of the Infantry Mohammad 'Aziz; Colonel of Armor Ziaoddin; Colonel of the Infantry Mohammad Kazem; Air Force Colonel Jura Beg; Colonel of the Infantry Mohammad Asef; and Colonel of Armor Abdorrahman.

BAKHTAR Refutes 'Imperialist Propaganda' Claims

LD141724 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Here is an announcement by the BAKHTAR Information Agency:

During the last few days, imperialist propaganda sources have speeded up their propaganda war against the DRA by spreading and manufacturing new lies and slanders. They have made ludicurous claims contending that some parts of the country have been captured by the counterrevolutionaries. The aim of this propaganda war is simple and the time chosen for it is very clear.

It is not seen by the runners of this propaganda machinery that in the fifth spring of the revolution, when the people of Afghanistan are preparing themselves for the glorious celebration of the revolution anniversary, the PDPA and the DRA are more powerful than ever before. The pillars of revolutionary power are being consolidated in the country with uncomparable speed. The confidence of the masses of the people in the aspirations of the April Revolution is growing; the millions of the masses of the people are further rallying around the party and state; large groups of the people, who had joined the ranks of counterrevolution, realizing the truth about the aspirations of the April Revolution, are coming over to the side of the revolutionary state. State power is being further strengthened in the most remote parts of the country. The process of the normalization of the situation in the country is daily being speeded up. Conditions are being provided for constructive work in many areas; as a result, the counterrevolutionaries are getting closer and closer to the graves of their inevitable, eternal, and complete defeat.

These great successes have faced the enemies of our homeland, revolution, and people with unprecedented anxiety. Imperialism, which has discovered that it has lost its undeclared war against the Democratic Republic of our dear homeland, Afghanistan, and against our victorious, national democratic revolution, is resorting to the most shameless propaganda, the (?doctrine) of which is obvious, even to themselves; it needs to restore the morale of the counterrevolutionaries who are at the brink of elimination and to thus encourage them in commiting their crimes.

The BAKHTAR Information Agency completely rejects the recent slanderous claims of the imperialist propaganda machinery and announces that revolutionary power is enforced throughout the jurisdiction of the DRA. The imperialists cannot change the reality of the situation in our country by setting out such ludicorous claims and such obvious lies. Imperialism and its collaborators will take to their graves this hope that the counterrevolution will control even a small part of our homeland.

Gandhi Writes to Leaders of Advanced Nations

BK131630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The prime minister has urged heads of government and state of the advanced nations to initiate steps for constructive North-South cooperation when they meet next month at Williamsburg in Pennsylvania [as heard], United States. Mrs Gandhi, in her capacity as the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, has addressed letters to her counterparts in countries outside the movement.

A spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said that these letters are being delivered by our heads of missions in different countries. The letters were intended to draw their attention to the major concerns of the movement which were set out in New Delhi message.

Mrs Gandhi has also proposed that all member states of the United Nations be represented at the forthcoming UN conference at the level of heads of state or government as a collective manifestation of their political will.

The spokesman said Mrs Gandhi's letters are a part of the active followup measures being taken by India, who has the responsibility to carry on the decisions taken by the New Delhi summit.

Mrs Gandhi in her letters pointed out that the New Delhi message embodies the fears and apprehensions as well as hopes and aspirations of the member states of the Nonaligned Movement. It has also brought into sad focus the threat of nuclear war and global economic crisis which confront mankind today.

Mrs Gandhi has called for urgent and immediate action on issues such as Palestine and Namibia, to dispell the atmosphere of gloom and a sense of helplessness that besets mankind today.

The prime minister has also underlined the imperative need to reverse the arms race so as to release the resources vitally required for economic development. She urged her counterparts to ensure participation of their countries in the proposed international conference on money and finance.

The spokesman said India is currently participating in the meeting of the coordinating countries of the Nonaligned Movement confronted with the question of peaceful uses of nuclear energy in Havana. India will also take part in the Asian regional conference on Palestine to be held at Kuala Lumpur next month. Another important meeting where the country will take part is the international conference on Namibia to be held at Paris toward the end of this month.

Border Vigilance Tightened Against Immigrants

BK131007 Delhi Domestic Service In English 0830 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Lok Sabha was assured today that vigilance on borders has been tightened to check illegal entry of foreign nationals. Answering supplementaries, the home minister, Mr P.C. Sethi, said besides the border security force the Defense Ministry is taking further steps to prevent illegal entry along the long and open border with Pakistan and elsewhere.

Answering the main question on overstay of foreign nationals beyond the valid period, the minister said that many of them have their visas extended on compassionate or other compelling grounds. The problem of overstay has been particularly marked for foreign nationals. Wherever necessary, prosecution and deportation is done for unauthorized overstay.

Gandhi Tells Soldiers of Danger at Borders

BK141617 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Excerpts] The prime minister has underlined the need for hard and disciplined work with vision to make the country more strong and prosperous. Mrs Gandhi was laying the foundation stone of the 56-kilometer-long Jammu-Udhampur railway line at Udhampur this evening. Addressing jawans [soldiers] at Kargil, Leh, and Udhampur, the prime minister emphasized the need for utmost vigilance on the borders. She said the government is trying its best to equip the Armed Forces with the latest weapons, but the world is moving very fast in the field of science and technology. She referred to the dangers lurking on our borders and asked the countrymen to be vigilant. If the country is socially strong and prosperous, no one can defeat us, she added.

Congress-I Protestors Arrested in Tripura

BK141618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] In Tripura Congress-I volunteers were arrested at Agartala today as the party launched a statewide Rasta Roko [road blockade] campaign. PTI, quoting Pradesh [state] Congress-I sources, said the campaign is to press the demand for holding a Central Bureau of Investigation inquiry into the recent killing of a party member of legislative assembly, Mr Parimal Saha.

Sikhs Swear In 'Do-or-Die Sacrifice Force'

BK141316 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] New Delhi, April 14 (AFP)—Some 31,500 Sikhs today swore to "do or die" for autonomy in Punjab State as the first volunteers in a 100,000-member "sacrifice force" being mustered for action, militant Sikh leaders said.

Leaders of the Sikh Akali Dal Party said the Sikhs took the solemn oath standing with arms folded at the "Akal Takhat," the supreme temporal seat of Sikhism in their holy city of Amritsar, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. PTI quoted Akali Dal President Sant Harhand Singh Longowal as saying that his party would call for a one-day action by the "sacrifice force," giving only short notice sometime after May 12 when the last volunteers are to be sworn in. He said any action would be peaceful, but added he could not assure control of youthful members of the movement who had suffered "repression by government."

Police and paramilitary forces in the northwestern state braced for trouble during the first oath-taking ceremony today, but no incidents were reported.

Mr Longowal and Sant Jarmail Singh Bhindranwale, the extremist Sikh leader, jointly adminstered the oath to the first "volunteers for death" and said the second group would be sworn in April 27 and the last on May 12.

The Akalis administered the first oaths today to mark Baisakhi, the festival of jubiliation and revelry which commemorates the birth of Sikhism.

"I offer my services to the Akali Dal, the organisation of the martyrs," the volunteers swore. "I affirm in the presence of Omnipresent that I dedicate my head for the Panth (Sikh faith). I shall always be ready to make any sacrifice for the betterment of the Panth at the instance of the president of the Akali Dal."

PTI quoted Mr Longowal as saying that the force would be trained in peaceful means of pressing the government of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to grant their political and religious demands.

The Akali Party does not seek total independence—although a minority demand this—but wants to make Punjab a theocratic state with a large degree of autonomy. It also wants Chandigarh, joint capital of Punjab and Haryana, to returnto Punjab.

The Akali leader said, "The brave young volunteers, following the teachings of the Sikh gurus (saints) and the sacred Granth Sahibi (holy book), will fight for the protection of the 'nation and country.'"

The militant Sikh leader called upon the faithful to take necessary action in case the police violated the sanctity of the Golden Temple by entering it. Akali leaders were to hold a meeting later today to decide on their next moves, a spokesman from the Golden Temple said.

Meanwhile, clashes with police which followed the Sikhs' April 5 statewide road blockade claimed another victim, with an injured Sikh dying from his wounds yesterday to bring the death toll to 22, an official source said.

Leader of Bombay Textile Strikers Arrested
BK140935 Delhi Domestic Service English 0830 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] In Maharashtra the labor leader Dr Datta Samant and about 500 workers belonging to his union were arrested at Kurla in Bombay today for breach of prohibitory orders. The arrests Bombay. Earlier, he had announced the plan to gherao[blockade] the residences of legislators to press the demands of the textile workers.

Power Supply in Bihar State Restored
BK140317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] In Bihar power supply has been restored fully. According to the chairman of the Bihar State Electricity Board, Mr Nagamani, the board has taken steps to reinforce patrolling along the important transmission lines and installations as a precautionary measure in the wake of sabotage by the striking workers. The state government has ordered the police to resort to firing and use force to protect the vital power installations. The strike by a section of powermen in the state entered its 7th day today.

Northeastern States To Discuss Common Problems
BK130848 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] The Assam chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, has said he will soon start dialogues with the chief ministers of Ngaland, Meghalyaya, and Arunachal Pradesh to sort out common problems, including the boundary issues. He told the All-India Radio Gauhati correspondent that he has already discussed the matter with the Nagaland chief minister in New Delhi and both have agreed to take steps to maintain peace and reduce tension along the common border.

About rehabilitation measures taken for the affected people, he said more than half of about 300,000 people who took shelter in relief camps have gone back to their villages. The government has requested the center to provide speedboats for patrolling the reverine areas.

The chief minister is visiting some places in Goalpara District which were affected by some violent incidents last week. Official sources in Gauhati said no fresh incident has been reported from any part of the district during the last 24 hours.

Ziaul Haq Discusses Regional,National Issues

NC121445 Cairo MENA in English 1258 GMT 12 Apr 83

[Text] Islamabad, April 12 (MENA)—President Ziaul Haq today described the Egyptian-Pakistani ties as close and long-standing relations. He said Egypt is the beacon of Islamic heritage as it hosts Al-Azhar and noted that many of Pakistan's present leaders were among Al-Azhar graduates.

At a meeting with the editors of Egyptian newspapers, President Ziaul Haq hoped that a spirit of reconciliation would prevail among the Islamic states.

The Pakistani president lauded the Egyptian Armed Forces which restored dignity to the Islamic nation during the heroic performance of the Ramadan war in 1973.

President Ziaul Haq further said that Pakistan and Egypt were linked with the linkage of Islam adding that Pakistan was founded in the name of Islam. He added that amid the prevailing world recession Pakistan as a developing country was able to achieve a good economic growth. He added that Pakistan has also reached the stage of self-sufficiency in the field of wheat, rice, sugarcane and cotton cultivation.

President Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan has the best irrigation network in the world and that many countries that start a new irrigation system make use of Pakistan's expertise. He expressed pleasure to extend aid to the Moslem countries, the neighbouring countries, the developing countries and the world states in general.

The Pakistani president welcomed the Egyptian pressmen as representatives of a state that achieved dignity and honour in 1973, adding that Egypt's status cannot be ignored not only in the Islamic world but in the whole world.

President Ziaul Haq said that President Mubarak's visit to Pakistan has its significance and through which bilateral relations at this level are restored. He added that he had met President Mubarak in the New Delhi Non-aligned Summit Conference and had extended to him an invitation to visit Pakistan, on his way back from his East Asian tour. He said that he is pleased because President Mubarak stopped over in Pakistan, expressing hope that this visit would promote bilateral relations which are at present at a good level through the personal contacts.

On religious extremist groups, President Ziaul Haq said there is good understanding as there is no field in Islam for the domination of one group or sects or individuals, and said these groups could be termed as fanatics instead of extremists.

Islam came for the sake of Islam not for the sake of destruction or for harming any person, but it came to make a better life for people, he added.

The Pakistani president said that Afghanistan, despite the fact of its being a small country with no natural wealth resources, it enjoys an important strategic position and had been for long years coveted by other more powerful countries.

The people of Afghanistan are courageous and determined to safeguard their freedom as had been proved all along history when the British failed to override them in three wars, President ZiaulHaq said adding that he always mentioned this fact whenever he met with one of the Soviet leaders.

The second round of indirect talks on Afghanistan is currently underway in Geneva, under the auspices of the United Nations, the president said, adding that although he is not greatly optimistic in this respect, this is the sole means of exerting efforts towards settling the crisis.

The Pakistani president set four conditions for settling the Afghan problem, First: The necessity of the Soviet forces withdrawal. Second: Afghanistan should re-join the Non-alignment Movement and should become an independent state. Third: The return of Afghan refugees to their homes in all honour and integrity. Fourth: The Afghanistan people should be left to determine the form of their government and their leader.

The Pakistani president denied that his country possessed an atomic bomb, which some Islamic countries contributed to finance, and said Pakistan does not intend to possess such a bomb.

On the Iraq-Iran war, President Ziaul Haq said that personally, he was not very optimistic concerning talks for settling the conflict. He pointed out that the political wish to realise peace in Iran and end this war was not evident at present.

The Iraq-Iran war started as a result of the two countries' failure to estimate each others' power, he added. President Ziaul Haq expressed hope in case a new economic system is created in the world, that it should be in the interest of developing countries so that they might obtain some of the advanced technology enjoyed by industrialised countries.

He urged every developing country to seek by itself to benefit from the sophisticated technology of industrialised states, stressing the need for cooperation among Islamic countries for the sake of their development.

Concluding, the Pakistani president said his main concern for five years had been to maintain Pakistan as an Islamic country.

Religious Violence Flares in Karachi 12 April

BK130932 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Apr 83

[Text] In Pakistan, troops were called out yesterday to quell violence in Karachi between two groups of Muslims. Thousands of demonstrators burned shops, houses, and cars. Two places of worship were also set ablaze. Three weeks ago some areas in the city were put under curfew after six persons died in similar sectarian violennce over the ownership of a mosque.

Reportage on Recent Military Activities
GF141650 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Bakhtaran, April 14, IRNA—Enemy forces being unable to confront the Islamic combatants in the battlefronts, barraged the city of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Bakhtaran Province, which resulted in the destruction of several residential units on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Iranian forces fired upon the enemy's positions in the western fronts and killed 16 Iraqi aggressors, while destroying a 206 mm gun, a vehicle, several group and individual bunkers as well as preventing the enemy from making any movement.

Also, the Gendarmerie forces fired on enemy positions and bunkers in Nowsud region killing or wounding several enemy troops on Wednesday.

Battle Successes Cited
GF141702 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—In the continuation of the first stage of the Wal Fajr offensive (started Sunday), the Islamic forces purged a number of strategic heights in the Wal Fajr operational region Thursday.

During [word indistinct] battle action one enemy command centre was destroyed and more than 2,000 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded, bringing the total to 8,400 since Sunday night.

Reports from the front also said that one other Iraqi helicopter was shot down today, which brings the total to five since Sunday, and 17 tanks, two vehicles, and two enemy munition depots were destroyed.

Heights Liberated
GF141840 Tehran IRNA in English 1600 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Khatam ol-Anbiya HQ, West Iran, April 14, IRNA—Islamic combatants comprising personnel of the army, Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, and basij (peoples mobilisation) liberated new strategic heights in western border line, north of Faqih, while seizing the first and second lines of the Iraqi enemy's positions early this morning.

The joint communique No 10 of the IRGC and the army, announcing this, added that Iranian forces liberated the heights by passing through continuous mine fields, explosive traps and by seizing a number of ammunition depots provided for Saddam by the overall assistance of eastern and western imperialists.

During these series of operations, started late Wednesday, the Islamic combatants inflicted heavy casualties on the Iraqi Army while completely destroying their Infantry Brigade No 108and a tank battalion of Armoured Brigade No 51. Iranian forces also smashed a number of Iraqi ammunition depots which were burning in first for hours.

Meanwhile, two Iraqi helicopters were downed by the fire of the forces of Islam, thus the number of enemy's choppers crashed during the past two days reached four.

Details of the operations will follow.

Counterattack Repulsed 15 April
LD151115 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Text] According to the report received from Khatam ol-Anbiya base, the headquarters for joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, this morning the fighters of Islam in a series of operations penetrated inside enemy positions in the border strip north of Faqih and delivered further blows to the Zionist Iraqi forces. In these operations the powerful Islamic fighters succeeded in completely destroying the 33d Tank Battalion of the 10th Armored Division of Iraq and killing the personnel of that battalion.

According to the same report, to regain height No 112 and a number of other border heights in the Wal Fajr operational zone the defeated enemy tried to launch a counterattack by making use of a brigade from its 1st Mechanized Division; but as the result of the resolve and steadfastness of our heroic fighting forces the enemy suffered another crushing defeat and was forced to withdraw after losing at least 12 tanks, a number of vehicles, and personnel carriers and leaving behind a large number of dead and wounded.

Communique No 1,284
LD141757 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 83

(Communique No.1284 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran)

(Text) In His exalted name. In the past 24 hours, battles and intense clashes continued on the Wal Fajr operation fronts, and the self-sacrificing combatants of Islam, who are ready to give their lives, victoriously and with full power robbed the aggressive Iraqi Ba'th mercenaries of all chance of any movement or reaction, and with full combat superiority and firepower and while holding the initiative, crushed the enemy's desperate moves. Details of these operations have already been brought to the attention of the beloved compatriots in joint communiques.

Now the details of the battles of the combatants of Islam on the other fronts of the imposed war are announced:

On the Abadan front the combatants of Islam, opening fire on the enemy positions, destroyed six trenches, foxholes,and observation posts of the Saddamist mercenaries, stopped enemy traffic movement on the Al-Faw-Basrah axis, and killed a number of their servicemen. Sporadic exchanges of fire between our forces and the Saddamist mercenaries continue on the other southern fronts.

Yesterday, the brave and strong combatants of Islam continued to defend their positions on the western fronts and by opening periodic fire on each front, silenced the fire of the aggressive Iraqi Ba'thist forces, and while controlling the movements and traffic of the Saddamist mercenaries, destroyed one ammunition truck, one 106-mm gun and a considerable number of positions of the Iraqi forces.

On the Marivan front,the heavy fire by combatants of the Ground Forces, directed on enemy positions,destroyed a number of the heavy and light weapons trenches of the Iraqi forces, together with their crews.

In the past 24 hours the cities of Abadan and Sar-e Pol-e Zahab came under the artillery and Katyusha fire of the Saddamist criminals. Several houses in these two cities were damaged while two of our compatriots in the city of Abadan were wounded.

In the past 24 hours the Air Force of the aggressive Iraqi Armed Forces tried many times to violate the airspace of our beloved Islamic homeland, but the honor-creating and proud personnel of the Air Force of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our air defense units, which are always in the trenches, opened up a timely barrage of fire, thus robbing the Iraqi Ba'thist mercenaries of any opportunity to attack, and forcing the intruding enemy aircraft to flee.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Warship Captain Discusses Sinking of Iraqi Gunboat

GF141730 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Excerpts] An Iranian warship belonging to the Bushehr District 2 Fleet which fought six gunboats of the defeated Army of the aggressor Saddam 2 nights ago in the Ardashir oil fields and heroically managed to sink one and forced the others to flee in this unequal combat this morning victoriously docked at Bushehr naval yard.

[Begin recording] [Question] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. We are among the personnel of one of the warships belonging to District 2 Fleet of Bushehr which in a victorious operation some nights ago against five [as heard] Iraqi gunboats and two helicopters managed to sink one gunboat. We ask the commander of this warship to introduce himself and tell us about the operation.

[Answer] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. I am Lieutenant Naser Sarnevesht commanding the ship in this region. I am happy to inform all compatriots and the viewers who have been following our operations in the air, at sea,or on land and are seeing us now about this operation.

Our operation was an open confrontation and their units were many more than ours at the commencement of the battle. We effectively proved to them that even 1 of our units can stand up to 10 of their units and even sink them. In our operations which occured at night, considering the Iraqis and the infidel Saddam—in his guarantees he had given, signed,and openly informed the world that he will not destroy oil installations—had decided to attack our oil installations and destroy them in the Persian Gulf. We were aware of this suicidal plan by the Iraqis before they began.

With due respect to the awareness and readiness of our support units on shore and in the operational theater, we were completely aware of the moves of this concentrated force which had gathered for another attack against our oil installations. We discovered this attack, neutralized it,and destroyed one of their units which attacked us.

Following our destruction of one of their rocket-equipped ships which participated in the attack, all their units involved in this operation fled the scene in a ridiculous manner. We were there and clearly proved to them that such a move, considering their previous guarantees, is an inhumane act contrary to all rules and regulations and the issues previously raised on the matter of protection of the environment and the issues which have recently arisen in the Persian Gulf.

We stopped their attack even though they shot around seven rockets at us and our installations. We neutralized their rockets and the fire of all our units at the last moment sank one of their ships, thus proving to them that even from the start of the war and throughout its duration, we can deal any blow against them that we want. We did not do this and tried to limit our clashes to their military units. [end recording]

Naval Commander Comments on Iraqi Gunboat Attack

LD141800 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Captain [as heard] Afzali, commander of the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, attended a news conference this morning.

Commenting on the Iraqi gunboat attack on the Persian Gulf oil field, he said: A number of Iraqi missile-launcher gunboats using Kuwaiti's shipping line's commercial water routes attacked Ardashir and Syrus oil wells and launched eight missiles; two hit Ardashir wells and three hit Syrus wells. During its counter-attack, the Navy of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran sunk an Iraqi missile-Launcher gunboat.

Refuting the Iraqi's completely false claim that the wells were military targets, Capt Afzali said Ardashir and Syrus are not military wells and had been in use from the very beginning of the war. Iranian experts have been able to remedy any damages to those wells as a result of the missile attack, yet one cannot state for sure that there will be no leakage from those wells in the future.

Further Report

LD142013 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Commander of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Admiral Afzali, today in the course of an interview regarding the

attack of the forces of the Iraqi regime on an oil zone near the Nowruz oilfield, which occured last Tuesday in the Persian Gulf waters, said: The personnel of the Navy, by sinking one Iraqi gunboat, repulsed this attack and at the present Iranian experts have brought the oil spill under control.

Mr Afzali stressed: This region is a nonmilitary zone and its oil has not been used since the beginning of the war.

Admiral Afzali went on to say: The forces of the Iraqiregime, with utilization of commercial shipping lanesof Kuwait, launched their attack. He further said: It isfor the benefit of Kuwait not to get involved in such issues.

IRNA Reports on Possible Greater Oil Danger

GF141830 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Bushehr, April 14, IRNA—Following an Iraqi missile attack on the Nowruz oil wells, IRNA reporters visited the site on April 11 and 12 and said that experts believed if the blazing oil well was not capped soon, the oil pouring at a rate of 2,000 barrels a day could jump to 10,000 barrels a day. They said the winds and tides were forcing the oil slick towards the southern states of the Persian Gulf.

The oil platform number three had been bent into the water as a result of the damage caused by the missiles and most of its leaking oil was ablaze and some 2,000 barrels were pouring into the waters everyday. However they said that experts believed that if the spill was not controlled it couldsoon pour its oil at a rate of 10,000 barrels per day.

Ministry Offers Gulf States Drinking Water

GF141800 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA—The Public Relations Office of the Prime Ministry announced tonight that Persian Gulf states who are threatened by a lack of drinking water can dispatch their ships to the southern Iranian ports of Imam Khomeyni and Mahshahr and load as much water as they need at no expense.

The office said the proposal was made by the Road and Transport Ministry and approved by the prime minister, Mir-HoseynMusavi.

Oil Minister Discusses Oil Slick, Kuwait Meeting

GF150616 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Apr 83

[Interview with Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi in Tehran on 14 April—recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Gharazi, concerning repeated attacks by Iraq against fields near Nowruz, what is your analysis of these beastly attacks and what has been done to stem the oil leak?

[Answer] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Hail to the imam of the nation,the combatant nation of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and especially hail to our fighters on the various battlefronts. My analysis of the Iraqi military move toward the oil fields and our entire oil flow in the Persian Gulf is that Iraq thought that by attacking Khark it can stop our oil shipments. In fact the more it attacked the higher became our production, sales, and exports. Our revolutionary nation had a moderately successful year last year in the field of oil sales. Iraq had no other intention in attacking oil fields other than to blackmail the countries on the southern part of the Persian Gulf.

In the past, Iraq obtained financial support for its war by threatening the large oil-producing countries of the southern Persian Gulf. When Iraq gradually was defeated in the battle-fronts, these countries withheld large and open cash payments. Iraq had no other course but to threaten them and what better means than by attacking oil wells, polluting their waters and finally raising the issue of unilateral cease-fire at the con-ference,while the issue of Iran being permitted to put out the fire in its oil wells and cap the leaks is being discussed, or to try to take the issue to the Security Council, and so forth. This is a clear since Iraq has reached such a stage that it has to do such things.

[Question] What was our action?

[Answer] We sent a repair ship and a 10-member crew to control the well. Iraq hit that ship and 10 of our brothers were martyred as a result. The action we have taken for the oppressed nations of the southern Persian Gulf, on the order of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, has been to send them as much water as we can. Under such a military pressure there is nothing else one can do unless those who aided Saddam fight to try and stop him now.

[Question] Has the repeated attack by Iraq been discussed in the new session in Kuwait and what sort of pressure do you expect this meeting to put on this regime?

[Answer] Before the resumption of the session on Wednesday in Kuwait we thought that it will be unsuccessful. Iraq would resort to various pressures, and we were right since Iraq attacked on Wednesday's eve. It does not want to stop its pressure on the southern Persian Gulf countries. Iraqi's intentions are to put some form of pressure on the countries of the southern Persian Gulf to receive some aid now that its balance of payment is in the red. It is obvious to all nations of the world that a country such as ours which can currently produce 3.5 million barrels a day, and can produce more, would not even think of a cease-fire just because a few thousand barrels of its oil are either burning or pouring into the Persian Gulf everyday. No one would accept the issue of going before the Security Council, or it becoming a means of pressure on the Islamic Republic to discuss the issue of cease-fire, and so forth.

[Question] Yes. What do you forecast as the result of this action?

[Answer] The future of this act is the same as that of the war. I do not think that Saddam is clever enough to be able to reach an agreement so that the wealth of these oppressed nations is not burned and destroyed. The future is tied directly to that of the war which is in the hands of our fighters on the fronts. I will take this opportunity to inform them that their pressure is increasing Saddam's madness and he will probably attack other parts due

to the military pressure of our brothers on the battlefields. I congratulate the great victory of these revolutionaries of the Islamic Republic.

[Question] I am grateful.

[Answer] Thank you.

AFP Account

NC142217 Paris AFP in English 2205 GMT 14 Apr 83

[Text] Tehran, April 14 (AFP)—Three wells are on fire in the Nowruz oil field in the northern area of the Gulf, Iranian Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi told a press conference here today.

Mr Gharazi said that fire was consuming 15,000 barrels of oil each day.

Further, 2,000 barrels of oil have been pouring daily into the Gulf "following an Iraqi attack," he said.

It was the first time that an Iranian official had spoken of three burning wells. Previously, only two wells were reported on fire.

Mr Gharazi said that the off-shore wells should be declared off-limits to attack so that workers can begin work to stop leaks. He rejected all possibility of Iranian acceptance of Iraqi cease-fire proposals.

The leak in the Nowruz field, about 100 km (65 miles) south of the northern coast of the Gulf, has caused oil slicks that are threatening to damage vital desalination plants of Gulf states.

The Iranian premier's [words indistinct] a communique announcing that ships from the United Arab Emirates can call at Iranian ports to take on potable water. Iran is also sending free of charge nearly 300,000 liters of mineral water to the Emirates, the communique said.

Esfahan Governor Meets With Soviet Consul General

GF121439 Esfahan Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 11 April 83

[Text] According to a report by the Public Relations Office of the governor general of Esfahan, the consul general of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in Esfahan called on Mr Karbaschi, governor general of this province, yesterday afternoon and held talks with him. In this meeting, views were exchanged on economic cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union.